

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A relay server comprising:

communicating means for communicating with a plurality of network devices, including a first network device in a first local area network (LAN) and a second network device in a second LAN; and

connection information holding means for holding connection information of ~~the network devices capable of communicating by the communicating means~~ a first connection between the relay server and the first network device and a second connection between the relay server and the second network device,

wherein the communicating means carries out communication ~~with~~ between the first and second network devices ~~in accordance with the connection information~~ by using the first and second connections, and relays data between the first and second network devices in accordance with connection demand information generated from one of the ~~plurality of first and second~~ first and second network devices.

2. (Currently amended) A communication system comprising:

a plurality of network devices, including at least a first network device in a first local area network (LAN) and a second network device in a second LAN; and

a relay server connected to the plurality of network devices via a network, wherein ~~a the first network device of the plurality of network devices~~ a first network device establishes a first communication path with the relay server, the second network device establishes a second communication path with the relay server, and the first network device generates a connection demand for communication with ~~a the second network device of the plurality of network devices to the relay sever when communicating with the second network device,~~ and

the relay server relays the communication between the first and second network devices by using ~~a the first and second communication path~~ paths

established in advance in accordance with the connection demand from the first network device.

3. (Currently amended) The communication system according to claim 2 wherein ~~the first network device is located in a local system, and~~ connection to the first network device from outside the ~~local system~~ first LAN is limited.

4. (Previously presented) The communication system according to claim 2 wherein the first network device is connected to the relay server via a gateway device having an address converting function.

5-7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently amended) A relay server comprising:

a communicating device communicating with a plurality of network devices, including a first network device in a first local area network (LAN) and a second network device in a second LAN; and

a connection information holding device holding connection information of the ~~network devices communicating by the communicating device~~ a first connection between the relay server and the first network device and a second connection between the relay server and the second network device,

wherein the communicating device carries out communication ~~with~~ between the first and second network devices ~~in accordance with the connection information by using the first and second connections,~~ and relays data between the first and second network devices in accordance with connection demand information generated from one of the ~~plurality of the~~ first and second network devices.

9. (Currently amended) The relay server according to claim 8, wherein ~~a first network device of the plurality of network devices is located in a local system, and~~ connection to the first network device from outside the ~~local system~~ first LAN is limited.

10. (Currently amended) The relay server according to claim 8, wherein ~~a the first network device of the plurality of network devices~~ the first network device is connected to the relay sever via a gateway device having an address converting function.

11. (Previously presented) The relay server according to claim 8, wherein the relay server is connected to the Internet.

12. (Previously presented) The relay server according to claim 8, wherein the relay server includes a global IP address.

13. (Previously presented) The relay server according to claim 8, wherein the connection information includes a user ID and a password.

14. (Previously presented) The relay server according to claim 1, wherein the relay server is connected to the Internet.

15. (Previously presented) The relay server according to claim 1, wherein the relay server includes a global IP address.

16. (Previously presented) The relay server according to claim 1, wherein the connection information includes a user ID and a password.

17. (Currently amended) A method for communicating between a plurality of network devices and a relay server comprising:

establishing and holding a communication path between each of a plurality of network devices and a relay server;

demanding a connection from one of the plurality of network devices to at least one other network device of the plurality of network devices using the relay server; and

relaying a communication between the one network device and the at least one other network device using ~~an established communication path based on the connection demand from the one network device~~ the held communication path between the one network device and the relay server and the held communication path between the at least one other network device and the relay server.

18. (Previously presented) The communication method according to claim 17 further comprising limiting the connection to the network devices from an outer network.

19. (Previously presented) The communication method according to claim 17 further comprising connecting the network devices to the relay server via a gateway device having an address converting function.

20. (Previously presented) The communication method according to claim 17 further comprising connecting the relay server to the Internet.